

United States Department of Agriculture



Natural Resources Conservation Service
375 Jackson Street, Suite 600
St. Paul, MN 55101-1854

February 3, 2004

MINNESOTA BULLETIN NO. 300-4-14

SUBJECT: LTP – EQIP – LOCAL AND AREA WORK GROUPS

Purpose. To transmit a MASWCD/NRCS joint letter.

Expiration Date. September 30, 2004.

Attached to this bulletin is a jointly signed letter from Scott Hoese, President of the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts and myself supporting locally-led conservation. In support of Minnesota Bulletin No. 300-4-11, this letter demonstrates the MASWCD and NRCS commitment to Locally Led and the Local/Area Work Group Process once again in 2004.

Keep up the great work that has made locally-led conservation a success in Minnesota.

WILLIAM HUNT
State Conservationist

DIST: AE

Attachment

January 12, 2004

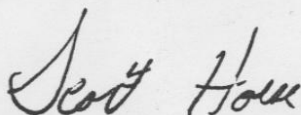
MN SWCD's
MN NRCS

In 2003 the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) in Minnesota focused on a new dimension in locally-led conservation. The use of Local Work Groups and Area Work Groups combined with local and area funding allocations put a renewed emphasis on local problems, local resources, and local priorities. The process of identifying and prioritizing local resource problems was the foundation for a highly successful EQIP in every part of Minnesota.

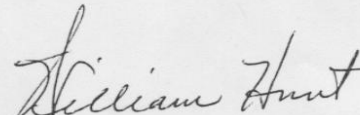
We commend all the SWCD and NRCS staffs for the time and commitment they gave to the Local Work Group process in 2003.

For 2004 we ask you each to again use the Local and Area Work Group process to establish your 2004 EQIP program. The process of seeking public input, discussing resource concerns, and setting priorities ensures that EQIP is both relevant and dynamic at the county and area level.

Again, congratulations on a tremendous 2003 EQIP and let's strengthen locally-led EQIP for 2004.



SCOTT HOESE
President, MASWCD



WILLIAM HUNT
State Conservationist